

Acts 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Analysis

This verse presents the paradox of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. Jesus was 'delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God' - His crucifixion was ordained before creation (Revelation 13:8). Yet perpetrators acted 'by wicked hands' and are culpable. This mystery safeguards both God's absolute control over history and human moral accountability. The Greek 'horismene boule' (determinate counsel) indicates settled divine decree, not mere permission.

Historical Context

Peter addressed the same Jerusalem crowd complicit in Christ's execution 50 days prior. His bold accusation 'ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified' directly charged his hearers with deicide, yet offered hope through repentance (v. 38). This demonstrates law and gospel's proper distinction.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you hold together God's sovereignty in salvation with human responsibility for sin?
2. What comfort does God's 'determinate counsel' provide when facing evil and suffering?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτον τῇ ὥρισμένη βουλῇ καὶ προγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ
Him G3588 by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge G3588 of God
G5126 G3724 G1012 G2532 G4268 G2316

ἐκδοτον λαβόντες διὰ χειρῶν ἀνόμων προσπήξαντες
being delivered ye have taken and by hands wicked have crucified
G1560 G2983 G1223 G5495 G459 G4362

ἀνείλετε
and slain
G337

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:22 (Parallel theme): And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

Acts 3:18 (References God): But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Acts 4:28 (Parallel theme): For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Genesis 50:20 (Evil): But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

1 Peter 1:20 (Parallel theme): Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Acts 13:27 (Parallel theme): For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

Matthew 26:24 (Parallel theme): The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Acts 5:30 (References God): The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Psalms 76:10 (Parallel theme): Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

Romans 4:17 (References God): (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.